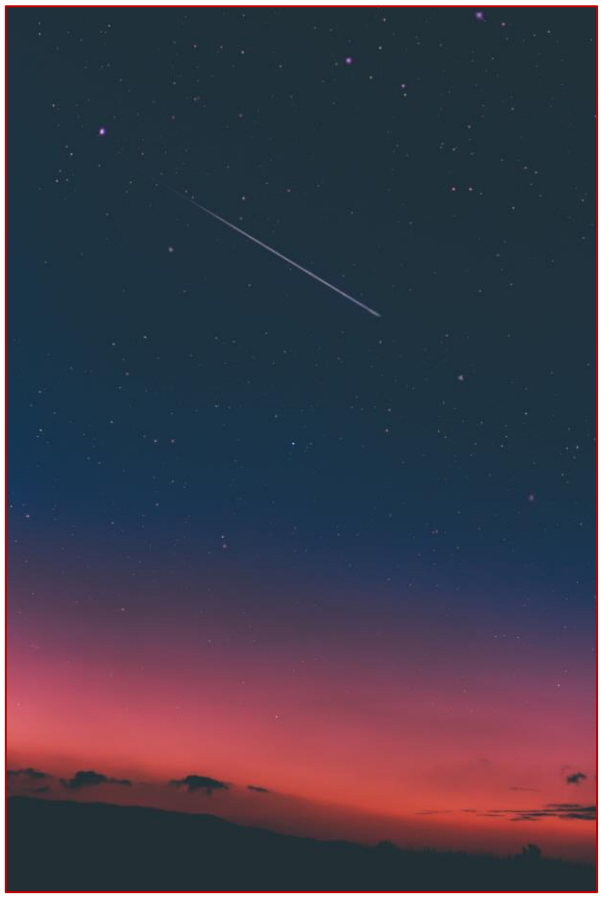

CENTRAL SAANICH UNITED CHURCH

Worship: Rev. Bob Gilbert

Music Director: Amy Nold

Secretary: Tara Houle

Office Hours: 10 am to 2 pm, Wednesdays & Thursdays

Address: 7180 East Saanich Rd

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Website: www.centralsaanichunited.ca

Facebook: Central Saanich United Church

Central Saanich United Church
United Church of Canada
Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 15, 2023

Scripture Reader: Barbara Erickson
Greeters: Barbara Erickson & Lionel Dobson

WE GATHER

Prelude
Welcome, Celebrations, Announcements
Lighting the Christ Candle

Hymn: **I Am the Light of the World** **VU 87**

Call to Worship:
O Lord, open our lips,
And our mouths shall declare your praise.
O Lord, open our eyes,
So that we may behold your presence.
O Lord, open our ears,
So that we may hear your call to follow.
O Lord, open our hearts,
So that we may offer you worship in love and joy.
(The Presbyterian Church in Canada Worship Planner, Jan. 15, 2023.)

We pray…..
Loving God, in whom we live and move and have our being,
we have gathered together from the separateness of our lives,
drawn into community, for which we give you thanks.
For the healing and wholeness we discover in your love,
we give you thanks.
For the challenge and call of Jesus Christ, we give you thanks.
For your Spirit which fills us with the courage and strength to live as Church, we give you thanks.
Our lips, our voices, our hearts praise you.
This we pray in the name of Jesus, the Holy One. Amen.

Children's Time

Ringing the Tone Bell (invitation to a moment of quiet)

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WE LISTEN TO THE WORD

Special Music

From our Scriptures: John 1:29-42
From the World Around Us: The Year as a House: A Blessing
(*by Jan Richardson)*

Sermon: "Where Jesus Lives"

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

We sing…… **Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples** **VU 507**

Offering
Invitation
What Can I Do? **MV 191**
Dedication of the Gifts

We pray…
Hymn: **Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying** **VU 400**

Prayers of the People
Lord's Prayer

Hymn: **Will You Come and Follow Me** **VU 567 (v. 1,2,4,5)**

Commissioning & Benediction:
May our awesome God who calls and equips us for service be glorified by our lives.
Our lives will glorify God as we go to live and to love, to share and to serve, to witness and to wait.
Our Creator God bless you now and always through the joy of following Jesus and by the grace of the Holy Spirit.
Amen. *(adapted from a resource in "Preaching – Word and Witness – Vol.05:1 (Yr. A), p. 34).*

Going Forth: **May the Love of the Lord** **MV 218**
Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AGM Reports are now due. Please send them in to the Office.

Executive Council, Wednesday, January 18, 7 p.m.

UCW Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Friday, January 20, Seahorses Café. See Helen Wright for more information.

Outreach Committee, Wednesday, January 25, 2:20 p.m.

Conscious Aging, Thursday, January 26, 10:30 a.m., St. Paul's United. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Centering Prayer, Friday, January 27, 11 a.m.

Please refer to our website for Upcoming Events in our Community
www.centralsaanichunited.ca

OR
follow us
Central Saanich United Church
Central Saanich United Church Online Worship

“There’s this huge misconception that refugees choose to be refugees.”

Image Courtesy of The United Church of Canada

Imagine being forced to leave your home.

Set adrift, hoping to find a place to land, somewhere safe so you can rebuild your life.

“There’s this huge misconception that refugees choose to be refugees,” says ChrisAnn Alvarez, Refugee Support at The United Church of Canada. “It’s not a choice. It’s something they’re forced into.”

It’s a reality that is faced by millions of refugees, and it’s a reality that is becoming more and more prominent. More people are displaced today than ever before: 100 million, says the UN Refugee Agency.*

That’s the equivalent of three Canadas.

There are many causes: human conflict, climate change, human rights violations, and more.

We can help.

Your gifts provide food, water, sanitation, and social support to people forced to flee their homes. Mission & Service creates educational and confidence-building programs in refugee camps. Mission & Service also helps refugees find new homes. “Congregations form sponsorship groups together to sponsor the refugee,” Alvarez explains. “What Mission & Service allows is for them to sponsor through their own congregation.”

She tells one story of a sponsor who renovated their basement after it flooded and immediately planned to sponsor a refugee in the new space.

“Who thinks like that?!” Alvarez exclaims with wonder and awe. “It’s just so beautiful!” The refugee stayed with his sponsors for years, and they became an adopted family to one another. “The sponsor told me, ‘We have no kids, so this was an unexpected blessing,’” Alvarez recalls, tearing up. “That’s one example of someone opening their home in their home, in their heart, and allowing themselves to be transformed.”

When we help protect one refugee from persecution, death, or years in a refugee camp, we save the world for that one person—and just maybe for ourselves, too.